

President's Message

Dear TFAS members & Friends:

Telugu Kala Samithi tharupuna mee andharki ma subhakankshalu.

We have been and continue to be busy with various activities both in the USA and in India. Since my last message, TFAS has conducted the 2009 Deepavali function at the East Brunswick Middle School. We had wonderful crowd at the event despite of pouring rain throughout the day. About 1200 people attended the event that was extended for an extra hour by popular demand.

We thrive on continuing to showcase local and young talent. We are constantly trying to meet the expectations of our membership, both old and young, by bringing a blend of traditional and classical clubbed with folk and movie. Although we may not succeed every time, we have been giving our best effort. Dance, singing and tennis competitions were performed leading to the Deepavali celebrations on October 24th. Although the competitions select top performers, we view all participants as winners.

As announced at the Deepavali function, we have dedicated the event to the victims of the recent flood in Andhra Pradesh. As a part of this we have pledged to send donations after our expenses to the CM Flood Relief fund. In addition, our Secretary Anand Paluri has taken the initiative to raise as much money as we possibly can by collecting donations at the event. Our generosity came through with about \$1,500 on the spot. In addition, we have also received approximately \$2,400 donations from various members in our community. Arrangements are being made to send this combined amount along with the remaining balance from the event to the CM Flood Relief fund.

TFAS and the Raja-Lakshmi Foundation collaborated again to present the Raja-Lakshmi Foundation Award 2009 to Sunita Narain. She is the Director of the Centre for Science and Environment, Director of the Society for Environmental Communications, and Publisher of the fortnightly magazine, "Down to Earth". She was awarded "Padma Sri" in 2005. Dr. K.V. Rao & Jyothi Rao Award of \$2,000 was awarded through TFAS to Sunita Narain.

TFAS members, Dr. Sankar Rao and Dr. Amar Jyothi donated \$64,000 to Lions Club of Bangalore thru TFAS to Smt. K.S. Bramarambha and Sriram Endowment for free eye surgeries.

I am extremely pleased with the efforts of our Executive Committee in coordinating and conducting these events. Given our professional and personal commitments, being a TFAS EC member demands a lot from those who are willing to work. We are fortunate to have a good core team that has worked well over the past 20-months. TFAS Secretary Anand Paluri, Events Chairperson Manju Bhargava, Youth Committee Chair Girija Kolluri, Treasurer Indira Yallamnachi, Vice President Dr. Ramakrishna Seethala, Community Services Chair Rohinikumar Velumala, Membership Chair Lakshmi Mallela, and IT Chair Satya Nemana have done an outstanding job at each of these events and set a benchmark for future committees to follow.

Speaking of future committees, it is that time again for election of 2010-2012 TFAS Executive Committee. There are several individuals with vision, energy and enthusiasm to move

TFAS forward and build upon the recent success. **The current EC proposes to amend the TFAS By Laws to increase the number of Trustees from 9 to 11 and to reduce the 2-year membership requirement to be nominated for a Trustee position to one year. See the amendments in the By Laws III.2, III.4, and IV.1 below.**

We have nominated an Election Committee chaired by Raja Rao Bandaru, with Sanakra Rao Polepalle and Dr Satyaveni Rao as members to conduct the elections and selection of the next EC.

I am very proud of TFAS as we continue to demonstrate that we are a strong organization that is committed to promote literature, culture and tradition without being political, religious or caste based. I hope this great tradition will continue in the future and TFAS continues to be the organization of choice amidst the growing Telugu associations across the US.

Plans are underway to conduct Sankranthi, Trimurthy Day and Ugadi. I request all of you to not only attend these events but also make suggestions to improve our events as appropriate. With regards,

Damodar Gedala & EC Committee

Proposed Amendments in TFAS By-Laws

ARTICLE III: BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2. The board of trustees of the corporation shall consist of [**increase 9 to 11**] trustees elected by the general members of the corporation either in person, or by proxy or by mail.
4. The board of trustees shall at its first meeting or soon after, designate and appoint the remaining trustees as [**add: Joint Secretary, Joint Treasurer, and**] chairpersons of committees to oversee various projects, activities and events undertaken or organized by the corporation such as Annual Events, Community Affairs, Membership Services, IT Services and Youth Affairs.

ARTICLE IV: QUALIFICATIONS

1. Any person who is a general member of the corporation for not less than [**reduce two years to one year**] on the 1st day of November in the year of election shall qualify for the position of a trustee or member of the nominating committee. Annual member if elected as Trustee shall become a Life member or a Patron Member at the time of formation of new board.

The TFAS Executive Committee requests that any information to be posted on TFAS website or to be sent as a part of the email Newsletter must be sent to president@tfas.net and/or secretary@tfas.net at least two weeks prior to the event. This will ensure timely distribution of the information.

TFAS regrets to inform that Smt. Raja Rajeswari Dama passed away in Flushing, New York on Monday November 23, 2009. Our deepest sympathy to Sri. Dama Venkaiah, daughters Krishna Gadipudi and Leela Kodali, and son Kesav!